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Health Officials Seek Agreement On Milk Residues

Leaders of the Maryland Health Department have met with Washington, D.C., Health Officer Dr. Murray Grant in an effort to reach agreement on the problem of pesticide residues in milk.

Sources said the state officials advised Dr. Grant that a level at which the residues are harmful to humans should be determined before any more milk shipments are stopped.

As a result of this conference, the State Health Department is expected to issue a statement soon to set a level of residue which must be exceeded before shipments are stopped.

Since the Food and Drug Administration lowered the acceptable level of residues in milk to zero and adopted new detecting methods, over 35 farmers have been forced to stop shipping their milk. Most of them were shippers supplying Washington, D.C.

The Baltimore City Health Department cut off 10 milk producers in April, but has taken no action since then.

Milk marketing cooperatives have met with health authorities to work out a method whereby

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producers were permitted to continue selling milk containing more than the FDA-set level of residues until the problem could be eliminated.

To date, the Maryland Health Department has not stopped any milk shipments because of residue content. The State Health Officer has the power to grant and revoke all shipping permits in the state.

The County Health Officer, Dr. Forbes H. Burgess, said yesterday that he does not have the authority to stop any milk shipments.

He said the state Health Department has not even reported to him on results of testing of milk samples taken in Frederick County.